

**CREDITON**  
**RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

**1914.**

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**MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1914.

## CREDITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1914, and as it has been decided not to spend money unless absolutely required, I am afraid it will not record any great progress in sanitary improvement in the district.

## BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The number of births during the year was 170. I am afraid we have relapsed into a low percentage again, as it is only 15.5 against 19.2 last year.

The number of deaths 128 and rate 11.7 is not so good as last year, which was the lowest for many years, but this one is not by any means a serious relapse.

The deaths under one year are 14, which compare very badly with last year's 6, but that was a remarkably low number, and 14 is about normal. Six of these are premature births, which is unfortunate, but does not show the district to be unhealthy.

Out of the 143 deaths      57 were over 70.  
    24 were over 80.

Out of the total 143      9 were due to consumption, and  
     last year it was 9 out of 125, which is an improvement.

14 were cancer.  
 10 Pneumonia against 6 last year.  
 8 Bronchitis against 5 last year.  
 3 Diarrhœa against none last year.

The last three diseases may have been increased from some climatic conditions.

Violent deaths from accidents are only 1 against 7 last year.

## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

SMALLPOX. None notified, and we are very fortunate not to have cases in the district, as I am afraid the day will come when we shall have to pay for the weakness of the vaccination laws.

ENTERIC FEVER. One case notified and that one died.

DIPHTHERIA. There were two cases notified with no deaths, which again shows the advantage of serum treatment.

SCARLET FEVER. Sixteen cases notified, which is not many considering how the disease has been scattered all over the country.

PUERPERAL FEVER. Only one case and not death. Great trouble is being taken to prevent this disease, and the improvement is marked, but there will always be some cases in spite of the utmost care.

TUBERCULOSIS. As usual this disease exacts a large toll from the population. I am very sorry to say this district has taken one big step backwards in having had its Shelters at Crediton closed. I have kept under observation several of the children that were there, and in nearly all the improvement of health they gained there has been maintained.

I have had cases again this year which could have shown the same marked improvement had they been fortunate enough to have had the same treatment.

I still maintain that if those in authority could have had the experience I have had with these Shelters, it would not be long before they had them all over the country.

## DRAINAGE AND WATER SUPPLY.

There have been some cases improved in these matters by private owners.

MORCHARD BISHOP is still practically at a standstill, taking it as a whole, in spite of all the meetings and reports, but we must hope this is only on account of the war postponing it.

SANDFORD could very much improve its health and comfort and the value of its property if it made better use of the splendid supply of water nature has given it.

COLDRIDGE. The new drains have been finished here and new pumps put in, so I trust we shall hear no more of diptheria in this village.

SANDFORD MILL. We inspected the houses of this group and found several defects in the drains, which have been at once put right by the private owner. There are defects in the public drainage of the village which are being reported on, and I hope the Council will soon act upon this report.

WEMBORTHY. I have reported that new drainage was required here and I am pleased to see the Council have it in hand.

NEWTON ST. CYRES. The small section of drains asked for in my last report have been done.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

are sent to the Exeter Sanatorium if they are not able to be isolated at home.

#### BACTERIOLOGY.

Being able to send specimens to the County M.O.H. has been of great advantage in several cases.

#### HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

Nothing has been done in this matter during the year.

#### FACTORIES.

There are none in the district.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

LESLIE POWNE, M.O.H.

CREDITON,

*June 4th, 1915.*

**TABLE I.**

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.

**Name of District—Crediton Rural.**

Year.	Population esti- mated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.				Of Non-Residents Registered in the District.	Of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages	
			Number.	Rate.					No.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	No.	Rate.
1909	11320	225		19	154	13.6		12	17	78	166	14.4
1910	11320	235		20.7	117	10.3		7	13	55	124	10.9
1911	10919	210	214	19.5	112	10.2		7	18	83.9	119	10.8
1912	10919	165	167	15.2	124	11.3		11	17	100.9	135	12.3
1913	10919	206	210	19.2	108	9.9	1	18	6	28.6	125	11.5
1914	10919	170	170	15.5	128	11.7	1	16	14	82.8	143	13.1

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water), 93,508.

Total population at all ages, 10,919.

**TABLE II.**

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1914.

**Name of District—Crediton Rural.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Number of Cases Notified.							
	At all ages.	At ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and Upwards
Small-pox ... ..								
Cholera (C) Plague (P) ... ..								
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ... ..	2			2				
Erysipelas ... ..	5				2		2	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	16		1	9	2	2	1	1
Typhus Fever ... ..								
Enteric Fever ... ..	1					1		
Relapsing Fever (R) Continued Fever (C) ... ..								
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1					1		
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..								
Poliomyelitis ... ..								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1	1						
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	17			4	6	6	1	
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	5			2	2	1		
<b>Totals</b> ... ..	<b>48</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

Arrangements have been made with Exeter Sanatorium if case unable to be isolated at home.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at death during the Year 1914.

Name of District—Crediton Rural.

Causes of Death.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District
		All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2 Years	2 and under 5 Years	5 and under 15 Years	15 and under 25 Years	25 and under 45 Years	45 and under 65 Years	65 and upwards	
All causes {	Certified Uncertified	142 1	14 —	3 —	2 —	9 —	6 —	13 —	25 —	70 1	0 —
Enteric Fever ... ..		1						1			
Small-pox ... ..											
Measles ... ..											
Scarlet Fever ... ..											
Whooping Cough ... ..		3	2	1							
Diphtheria and Croup ..											
Influenza ... ..		5	1						2	2	
Erysipelas ... ..											
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ... ..		9					3	6			
Tuberculous Meningitis...											
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..		3				3					
Cancer, malignant disease		14			1				3	10	
Rheumatic Fever ... ..		1				1					
Meningitis ... ..		2		1		1					
Organic Heart Disease ...		13							5	8	
Bronchitis ... ..		8						1		7	
Pneumonia (all forms) ...		10					1	2	3	4	
Other diseases of respiratory organs ... ..		2								2	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis...		3	2	1							
Appendicitis and Typhlitis		1				1					
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..											
Alcoholism ... ..											
Nephritis and Bright's Disease.. ... ..		3						1	1	1	
Puerperal Fever ... ..											
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... ..		1					1				
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ... ..		9	9								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ... ..		1				1					
Suicide ... ..		1							1		
Other Defined Diseases...		52			1	2	1	2	10	36	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ... ..											
Totals ... ..		143	14	3	2	9	6	13	25	71	0

TABLE IV.

**Infant Mortality** during the Year 1914 in the  
Crediton Rural District.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One  
Year of Age.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes { Certified { Uncertified	6	2			8	4		2		14
Small-pox ... ..										
Chicken-pox ... ..										
Measles ... ..										
Scarlet Fever ... ..										
Whooping Cough... ..						I		I		2
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..										
Erysipelas ... ..										
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..										
Abdominal Tuberculosis ... ..										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis ( <i>not</i> <i>Tuberculous</i> ) ... ..										
Convulsions ... ..										
Laryngitis ... ..										
Bronchitis ... ..										
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..										
Diarrhoea ... ..						I		I		2
Enteritis ... ..										
Gastritis ... ..										
Syphilis ... ..										
Rickets ... ..										
Suffocation, overlying ... ..										
Injury at Birth ... ..										
Atelectasis ... ..										
Congenital Malformations						I				I
Premature Birth ... ..	4	2			6					6
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ... ..					I	I				2
Other Causes ... ..										
Totals ... ..	6	2			8	4		2		14

Nett Births in the year :—Legitimate, 166 ; Illegitimate, 4.

Nett Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, 14 ; Illegitimate Infants, 0.

